



## ROLE OF MORALITY AND ETHICS IN SHAPING LIFE

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### ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the intricate relationship between ethics and morality. Moral values, serving as guiding principles derived from cultural, religious, and philosophical sources, contribute to the ethical foundation of decision-making. They are often shaped by cultural, religious, and philosophical influences, and they provide a framework for making ethical decisions. Ethics, in turn, shape the conduct of individuals and institutions, laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and progress. The symbiotic interplay between moral values and ethics often steers the trajectory of development, be it at the societal, economic, or personal level.

This research paper examines the integral connection between morality and ethics. It delves into the ways in which moral values are developed, their impact on various aspects of human development and the reciprocal relationship between individual development and the collective cultivation of the moral values. Through a comprehensive exploration of psychological, sociological and philosophical perspective, this paper aims to highlight the significance of moral values in shaping our lives.

**KEYWORDS:** Moral Values, Ethical, Impact, Sociological

### INTRODUCTION

Morals refer to human behavior where morality is the practical activity and, ethics describes the theoretical, systematic, and rational reflection upon that human behavior (Churchill, 1982). Moral values are principles or beliefs that guide individual behavior and judgments about what is right or wrong. We cannot begin to analyze what moral values are without first having an understanding of what morality and moral education are. Morality is derived from the Latin word *mores* which means "manners" or "morals". In the words of Aminigo and Nwaokugha (2006); morality is "an accepted code of human conduct in a society". Morality entails "having laws that will regulate dealings of men who can choose to abide by these laws because they know it is good sense to do so" (Uyanga and Amingo; 2010). Being moral or being morally conscious means adopting standards or principles to guide ones' actions and conduct in society". Moral education is a programme of study which teaches the pupil about behaving in accordance with what is good while rejecting the bad. It is a holistic approach to stimulate character building and moral development (Okoh; 2003). According to Charles Colson morality describes what is, whereas ethics describes what ought to be. Fundamentally morals refer to a set of rules defining what is considered to be right or wrong and accepted without question. These rules are typically defined by society if someone breaks such a rule then he is typically considered to have been "bad" or "immoral".

Ethics refers to the moral character of an individual. Ethics is derived from Greek word 'ethos' which means character. Ethics deals with questions about how people act towards one another. Ethics in general refers to a system of good and bad, moral and immoral, fair and unfair. It can be defined broadly as a set of moral principles or values. Each of us has such set of values, although we may or not have considered them explicitly.

### METHODOLOGY:

The present paper is descriptive in nature. Both primary and secondary data are used for the compilation of it. Students,

teachers and general public are enquired about these concepts. For secondary data magazines, news papers, library and various e- resource is consulted

### OBJECTIVES

The study covers only descriptive part therefore the objectives of the study are:

1. To find the relationship between morality and ethics.
2. To compare how morality and ethics are changing our life.

### Conceptual Framework:

#### MORAL:

The concept of morality has been variously defined by philosophers and psychologist but in common terms it can be interpreted to mean a person's or society's view of what is perceived to be the highest good. moral values are the key components of a person's character. They are personality traits guiding people to make decisions and judgments according to their own sense of right or wrong, based on collective and individual experiences. In general morals are mostly about being a good person and treating others well.

#### ETHICS:

Ethics is derived from Greek word 'ethos' which means character. Ethics deals with questions about how people act towards one another. Ethics in general refers to a system of good and bad, moral and immoral, fair and unfair. It can be defined broadly as a set of moral principles or values. Each of us has such set of values, although we may or not have considered them explicitly. Philosophic, religious, organizational and other groups have defined various ideal sets of moral principles or values. It is a code of conduct that is supposed to align behaviors within an organization and the social framework. Primarily, ethics is affected by three sources - culture, religion and laws of the state.

**RELIGION:**

Religion is one of the oldest foundations of ethical standards. Religion wields varying influences across various sections of people. It is believed that ethics is a manifestation of the divine and so it draws a line between the good and the bad in the society.

**CULTURE:**

Culture is a pattern of behaviors and values that are transferred from one generation to another or those that are considered as ideal or within the acceptable limits. No wonder therefore that it is the culture that predominantly determines what is wrong and what is right. It is the culture that defines certain behavior as acceptable and others as unacceptable.

**LAW:**

Laws are procedures and code of conduct that are laid down by the legal system of the state. They are meant to guide human behavior within the social fabric. The major problem with the law is that all the ethical expectations cannot be covered by the law and specially with ever changing outer environment. The law keeps on changing but often fails to keep pace.

**PATIENCE:**

Patience is the ability to wait without becoming annoyed, upset, or angry. It is the ability to tolerate delay, provocation, or misfortune without complaining. Patience is a virtue that is often associated with wisdom and maturity.

There are many benefits to being patient. Patience can help us to:

- Handle difficult situations more effectively. When we are patient, we are less likely to lash out or become emotional when things don't go our way. This can help us to stay calm and clear-headed, which can be helpful in difficult situations.
- Achieve our goals. Patience can help us to stay focused on our goals and to keep working towards them, even when things get tough. This is because patience helps us to resist the temptation to give up easily.
- Build stronger relationships. Patience can help us to be more understanding and tolerant of others. This can lead to stronger and more fulfilling relationships.
- Improve our mental and physical health. When we are patient, we are less likely to experience stress and anxiety. This is because patience helps us to accept things that we cannot control and to focus on the things that we can control.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Responsibility is the state or fact of being responsible, answerable, or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management. It is also the ability to act independently and take care of oneself.

There are many different types of responsibility, but some of the most common include:

- Personal responsibility: This is the responsibility that we have for our own actions and choices. It means taking ownership of our mistakes and learning from them.
- Professional responsibility: This is the responsibility that we have to our jobs and our colleagues. It means doing our work to the best of our ability and meeting our deadlines.
- Civic responsibility: This is the responsibility that we have to our community and our country. It means voting, paying taxes, and volunteering our time.
- Environmental responsibility: This is the responsibility that we have to take care of our planet. It

means reducing our waste, recycling, and conserving energy.

**Transparency:** Transparency is the quality of being open, honest, and clear. It is the opposite of secrecy and obfuscation. Transparency is important in many areas of life, including business, government, and personal relationships.

In business, transparency means being open about the company's finances, operations, and decision-making process. This allows stakeholders, such as investors, employees, and customers, to make informed decisions about the company. Transparency can also help to build trust and confidence in the company.

In government, transparency means being open about the government's activities, such as its budget, spending, and decision-making process. This allows citizens to hold the government accountable for its actions. Transparency can also help to build trust and confidence in the government.

In personal relationships, transparency means being open and honest with your partner or friends. This means sharing your thoughts and feelings, even if they are difficult or uncomfortable. Transparency can help to build trust and intimacy in relationships.

**IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS AND MORALITY:**

Ethics is important for a number of reasons. First, it helps us to live in a just and fair society. When people follow ethical principles, it creates a sense of order and predictability in society. It also helps to protect the rights of individuals and groups.

Second, ethics helps us to make good decisions. When we are faced with a difficult decision, we can use our ethical principles to guide us. This can help us to avoid making choices that we will later regret.

Third, ethics helps us to build strong relationships. When we act ethically, we show others that we respect them and that we care about their well-being. This can lead to stronger and more fulfilling relationships.

Morality is also important in our lives. It helps us to live a life that is meaningful and fulfilling. When we act morally, we feel good about ourselves and we know that we are making a positive difference in the world.

Morality also helps us to build a better society. When people act morally, it creates a sense of community and trust. It also makes the world a more just and equitable place.

Ethics and morality are not just abstract concepts. They play a role in our everyday lives. For example, when we are deciding whether to cheat on a test, to steal something, or to tell a lie, we are making an ethical decision. We are weighing the potential benefits of our actions against the potential costs.

Our ethical choices also affect our relationships with others. When we are honest and trustworthy, we build stronger relationships. When we are dishonest and untrustworthy, we damage our relationships.

**CONCLUSION**

Ethics tries to create a sense of right and wrong in the life and often when the law fails, it is the ethics that may stop individual from harming the society or environment. Ethics and morality

are important in our lives. They help us to make good choices, to live a life that is meaningful and fulfilling, and to build strong relationships. We should all strive to live an ethical and moral life.

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